From: Morning Consult
To: lmartin@bakersfieldpd.us
Subject: Morning Consult Tech: Week in Review & What"s Ahead
Date: Sunday, July 21, 2019 2:00:53 PM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

By Sam Sabin

Week in Review

U.S.-China tech relations

- President Donald Trump said in a tweet that his administration will "take a look" into whether Google works with the Chinese military after billionaire tech investor Peter Thiel suggested the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency open an investigation into the alleged working relationship. Google responded to Thiel's comments by denying any work with Beijing's military.

- Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.) said Google Chief Executive Sundar Pichai told him the company had ended some of its partnerships in China, but did not specify which projects they discussed. The comment comes after Karan Bhatia, Google's policy chief, told senators during a hearing that Google's Chinese search engine prototype project had been "terminated."

- Republican Sens. Marco Rubio of Florida and John Cornyn of Texas introduced legislation allowing the federal government to prohibit companies on a trade blacklist from buying, selling or exclusively licensing American patents - which the lawmakers said is specifically targeting Huawei Technologies Co. The bill follows reports that Huawei has pressured Verizon Communications Inc. to pay licensing fees for more than 200 of the Chinese telecommunications company's patents.

Antitrust and intellectual property

- The European Union officially opened an antitrust investigation into Amazon.com Inc. for possible misuse of the information it collects from independent retailers on its marketplace, with plans to look into the agreements made between Amazon and its sellers and how the e-commerce giant uses the data. Amazon said it "will cooperate fully" with the European Commission, whose investigation top antitrust official Margrethe Vestager has long warned would happen.

- The European Union's competition officials fined Qualcomm Inc. 242 million euros ($272 million) for abusing its market power to drive a competitor out of business and stifling competition in the baseband chips market. This is the American chipmaker's second fine from EU regulators in 18 months after Qualcomm, which plans to appeal the fine, was hit with a $1.2 billion fine in January 2018 for payments made to Apple Inc. at the expense of Intel Corp.

- The Department of Justice and other U.S. agencies supported Qualcomm's effort to pause an antitrust ruling that would require the chipmaker to change the way it sells its chips and patent licenses, saying that Qualcomm's appeal had a "likelihood of success" and the ruling had the potential to undermine "US leadership in 5G technology and standard-setting." In May, Judge Lucy Koh ruled that Qualcomm had "strangled competition" and abused its market power, supporting a complaint filed by the Federal Trade

Commission.

- The Department of Justice may sue to block the proposed merger between T-Mobile US Inc. and Sprint Corp. if the two mobile carriers cannot negotiate a deal by the end of the week to divest certain assets as part of the transaction, according to a source familiar with the deal. The carriers have been in discussions for weeks with Dish Network Corp. to purchase prepaid brand Boost Mobile, but negotiations hit a snag over how many restrictions to place on whoever ends up purchasing the assets.

2020 presidential race

- South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg received the largest amount in donations among Democratic presidential candidates from employees at Facebook Inc., Amazon.com, Apple and Alphabet Inc. in the second quarter, with a total of $121,973 from 214 workers, according to a Morning Consult analysis of receipts filed to the Federal Election Commission. Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts raised the second largest amount, at $102,476 from 232 employees.

- Twitter Inc. Chief Executive Jack Dorsey donated a total of $5,600 to Rep. Tulsi Gabbard's (D-Hawaii) presidential campaign on June 27, the day after her appearance at one of the two Democratic debates. Gabbard has been polling at 1 percent among likely Democratic primary voters, and Dorsey donated $2,800 each to her primary campaign and her general election fund, the maximum donation amounts legally allowed for individuals.

Social media and mobile technology

- Facebook executive David Marcus, who is overseeing the company's proposed digital coin plans, refused to agree to Rep. Maxine Waters' demands during a House Financial Services Committee hearing to halt work on the project until Congress can institute safeguards on cryptocurrency. Instead, Marcus said he agreed that the plans should be analyzed and the "proper oversight needs to be set up before Libra can launch."

- Twitter said it will not take action regarding tweets from Trump, saying they do not violate the site's rules banning posts that discriminate against users on the basis of their race, ethnicity, national origin and other such identifiers. The tweets, which targeted Democratic Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (N.Y.), Rashida Tlaib (Mich.), Ayanna Pressley (Mass.) and Ilhan

Omar (Minn.) and said they should "go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came," have been widely condemned by Democratic leaders, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

- Republican Sens. Ted Cruz (Texas) and Josh Hawley (Mo.) asked the FTC in a letter to investigate how social media companies curate content, saying that big tech companies should not be "allowed to curate content entirely without any transparency" as content strategies "can influence democratic outcomes" without voter accountability. Cruz and Hawley also said that such platforms "actively censor some content," which Silicon Valley companies have denied.

JEDI contract

- Trump confirmed that he plans to "look seriously" at the procurement process for the Pentagon's $10 billion computing project, the Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure, because of the "tremendous complaints" he's received alleging that the Defense Department's contract terms clearly favor Amazon.com Inc. Trump also said that "great companies" - such as Microsoft Corp., Oracle Corp. and International Business Machines Corp. - have been complaining about the contract.

- Four Republican members of the House Armed Services Committee, including ranking member Rep. Mac Thornberry (Texas), sent a letter to the president urging him not to delay the Pentagon's cloud-computing contract, saying it's "essential for our national security to move forward" as soon as possible. The letter follows comments from Trump that he would look "very closely" at the contract due to allegations that it favors Amazon - one of the project's two finalists.

Telecommunications and wireless

- The House Energy and Commerce Committee unanimously voted to push its bipartisan robocalls bill forward to a full chamber vote. During a full committee markup earlier today, two new amendments were added: one that would increase the per-violation fine for illegal calls to $10,000 from $1,500, and another to create a Hospital Robocall Protection Group within the Federal Communications Commission to target scam calls to hospital staff and patients.

The White House is in the process of forcing out Earl Comstock, the Commerce Department's policy director, for clashes regarding the FCC's spectrum auction strategy, net neutrality repeal and other issues, according to five current and former administration officials. However, a Commerce Department spokesperson denied the news, saying there was "no truth to these rumors."

What's Ahead

- The House and Senate are in session.
- The Senate Commerce Committee will markup a collection of 5G bills on Wednesday, including the Secure 5G and Beyond Act, United States 5G Leadership Act and Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability (DATA) Act.
- Following its markup, Senate Commerce will hold a nomination hearing for several appointees, including Michael Kratsios for the position of associate director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.
- The FCC's next open commission meeting is Aug 1. Agenda items tentatively include consideration of Chairman Ajit Pai's new anti-spoofing proposal and a notice on creating a two-phase reverse auction framework for the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund.

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

07/19/2019

FCC Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council's first meeting	1:00 pm

07/22/2019

The Washington Post's interview event with Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Amy Klobuchar	9:00 am

07/23/2019

Senate Judiciary Committee's hearing on the enforcement of antitrust laws	2:30 pm

07/24/2019

Politico event on Unlocking the AI Data Puzzle in the Federal Government	8:00 am
House Oversight Committee's hearing on Russian interference in the 2016 elections with Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller, III	8:30 am
Brookings Institution's "The future of ICT in the digital economy" event	10:00 am
House Appropriations Committee's oversight and budget hearing for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy	10:15 am
Senate Commerce Committee's markup, including several broadband and 5G bills	10:30 am
Senate Commerce Committee's nominations hearing, including consideration of Michael Kratsios for the role of U.S. Chief Technology Officer	10:30 am
House Intelligence Committee's hearing with former Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller III	12:00 pm
FTC's Fighting Consumer Fraud and Identity Theft workshop in Iowa	1:00 pm
ITIF's discussion on benefits of facial recognition technology use for law enforcement	2:00 pm
New America's "Overcoming Obstacles to Connection" event on AI, personalized learning and other automations	4:30 pm

07/25/2019

Internet Governance Forum USA 2019	
Brookings Institution's "Autonomous cars: Science, technology, and policy" event	8:45 am
The Capitol Forum's DOD Procurement Conference	9:00 am
FiscalNote's Data Privacy and Antitrust Luncheon	11:30 am

View full calendar

Understanding Gen Z: The Definitive Guide to

the Next Generation

Based on nearly 1,000 survey interviews with 18-21 year-olds, Morning Consult's 'Understanding Gen Z' report digs into the values, habits, aspirations, politics, and concerns that are shaping Gen Z adults and the ways they differ from the generations that came before them.

Download the full report →

Morning Consult Tech Top Reads

1) Conservatives pretending to be suppressed by social media dominated social media
Rani Molla, Vox

2) Twitter: Trump's tweets attacking congresswomen do not violate rules
Cristiano Lima, Politico

3) After census debacle, White House to knock out senior Commerce official
Nancy Cook and Margaret Harding McGill, Politico

4) The 5G Health Hazard That Isn't
William J. Broad, The New York Times

5) GOP senators ask for federal investigation into social media companies' decisionmaking
Harper Neidig, The Hill

6) A Low-Level Influencer Allegedly Killed An "E-Girl" And Posted Photos Of Her Body To Instagram
Ryan Broderick, BuzzFeed News

7) Why Congress Gets Privacy Wrong
Matthew Daniels, Morning Consult

8) The future of work in America: People and places, today and tomorrow
McKinsey Global Institute

9) Peter Thiel says FBI, CIA should probe Google

David McCabe, Axios

10) After Facebook's Senate Hearing, Brown Threatens Legislation to Block Libra
Claire Williams, Morning Consult

This email was sent by: Morning Consult
729 15th St. NW Washington, DC, 20005, US

Manage Subscriptions | Update Profile | Unsubscribe

SUBSCRIBE